

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 31. I commend the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO), the distinguished ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, for the tremendous work they have done on this bill. I would point out that the gentleman from Minnesota very much wanted to be the floor manager from the Democratic perspective on this bill, but he had been apprised it would be taken up tomorrow, had made a number of previous important appointments that he simply could not break, and asked me to substitute in his stead.

This bill commemorates the millennium of Leif Ericson's arrival in the New World, a watershed event in the history of our continent. The bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the simultaneous minting and issuance by the Republic of Iceland of its own coin, to mint up to, I believe, one-half million dollars of one-dollar commemorative coins.

If I may ask the gentleman from Iowa, is it correct that it is one-half million, as opposed to 250,000?

Mr. LEACH. If the gentleman will yield, that is what the legislation suggests, that is correct.

Mr. LAFALCE. The coins will be made up of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper, and will commemorate the importance of Leif Ericson's arrival in the New World nearly 1,000 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, the proceeds from the sale of this coin will go to the Leifur Eirikson Foundation, which will use the funds to finance student exchanges between the United States and the Republic of Iceland. I would urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Leif Ericson, the Norse navigator and explorer, and to voice my support for the Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative Coin Act.

Leif Ericson played a vital role in the European discovery of our continent. It is a role that, over the years, has not been widely recognized. Within the past 30 years, new historical evidence has surfaced to show that Leif Ericson landed in North America around 1000 A.D., almost 500 years prior to Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World.

Leif Ericson was born around 970 A.D. in Greenland, son of the famous warrior, explorer, and discoverer of Greenland, "Eric the Red." There are two traditional accounts of Leif Ericson's discovery of America. However, the one that is best upheld by the evidence states that a contemporary of Leif's, Bjarni Herjolfsson, chanced upon America after drifting off course. Herjolfsson did not land in the New World, but upon his return to Greenland, he described his course to Leif. Following Herjolfsson's course, Leif later landed in North America. He named the new land "Vinland," after the plentiful supply of grapes he found

there. He built a small settlement and spent the winter in Vinland before he returned to Greenland.

At the end of his career, Leif Ericson settled on his father's estate in Brattahlid, Greenland, where he lived until he died. It is rumored that he is buried in an unmarked grave in the Brattahlid cemetery.

The Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative Coin Act will create silver dollars for the 1000-year anniversary of Ericson's landing in North America, in conjunction with a series of coins to be minted in the Republic of Iceland. All proceeds will support student exchanges between the U.S. and Iceland. This is an appropriate way to pay tribute to the pioneering spirit of Leif Ericson, and these coins will stand as symbols of his courage and perseverance—virtues we all must embrace in order to accomplish our goals.

Finally, this legislation will honor all Americans of Scandinavian descent. For generations, they have proven themselves brave and loyal Americans, carrying on the tradition of courage and exploration started by their Norse ancestors, including Leif Ericson.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 31.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED STATES VICTORY IN THE COLD WAR AND FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 121) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the victory of the United States in the cold war and the fall of the Berlin Wall, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 121

Whereas the cold war was an enduring struggle between communism and democracy throughout the second half of the 20th century;

Whereas an estimated 24,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served during the cold war;

Whereas 400,000,000 people were freed from the bondage of communism during the cold war in the countries then known as the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania;

Whereas the victory of the United States in the cold war will signify freedom and security for decades to come;

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall, one of the most significant events of the 20th century, symbolized the triumph of democracy over communism; and

Whereas November 9, 1989, will mark the 10th anniversary of this historic event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the Nation should celebrate the victory of the United States in the cold war and the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall by—

(1) promoting education about the cold war and its historical significance;

(2) supporting efforts to establish a memorial museum to victims of communism that reflects the suffering of millions of victims worldwide and the role of the United States in promoting freedom and democracy that led to the end of the cold war;

(3) celebrating peace, freedom, and the principles of democratic government;

(4) honoring and reflecting upon the role of the United States in the international struggle for individual human rights and the evolution of the free enterprise system; and

(5) recognizing the veterans who served during the cold war.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution, H. Con. Res. 121, recognizes the essential role played by our Nation and the men and women in our armed forces who served in Europe during the Cold War. I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for his effort to see that our victory in this protracted struggle with the forces of communism is duly recognized. I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who is joining me today on this resolution.

Ten years ago, the Berlin Wall, one of the enduring symbols of the brutality and repression of the Communist system, was finally brought down. It was the remarkable culmination of the 40-year struggle between the forces of freedom and liberty and those of tyranny and oppression. During this struggle, our citizens and those of Europe had a nuclear sword of Damocles hanging over them, and it is one of the truly noteworthy events in human history that it ended not with a bloody upheaval but a jubilant celebration by those on both sides of the Wall who never let their faith in democratic government and the intrinsic good of liberty desert them.

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Our victory was not completely bloodless, however, and a number of members of our Armed Forces, our public officials and ordinary citizens made

the greatest sacrifice in order to bring about victory. So too did many of the people of Eastern Europe, some of whom were killed simply trying to escape from beyond the Iron Curtain and others who died resisting the tyrannical forces that ruled over them. This resolution is an appropriate tribute to all those who sacrificed so much.

Accordingly, I urge the House to unanimously approve H. Con. Res. 121.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

At the outset, let me commend my good friend, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for bringing this resolution to the floor and for his decades of dedicated service on behalf of the democracy and freedom in Europe and elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is important, as we pay tribute to our own political leadership on a bipartisan basis during the Cold War and to the 24 million men and women who served the United States in uniform during the Cold War, that we recognize that the victory was not ours alone; it was ours, and it was the victory of equally committed freedom-loving democratic people throughout the NATO alliance. From Norway to Spain, men and women committed to freedom and democracy and to opposing totalitarian regimes joined with us in succeeding in this tremendous historic victory that was symbolized by the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The distinguished Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) and I happened to be in Berlin, Mr. Speaker, as the Berlin Wall was being dismantled. We were there along with scores of others from many countries chipping away at the wall and bringing home with us tiny segments of that symbol of tyranny. The Berlin Wall, as my colleagues will note, is the only wall ever erected in history not to keep the enemy out, but to keep the people inside this wall so they could not escape, and yet scores of individuals in a variety of ways, many of them giving their lives in the process, broke out, tried to break away from an era of tyranny.

I think we also need to pay enormous tribute to the people who lived within the Soviet Union and within the Soviet satellites who gave their lives to fight those regimes, the tens of thousands of refuseniks and dissidents and slaves of the giant gulag archipelago whose sacrifices far exceeded the sacrifices of all of us who lived in the free world.

I think it is important to realize, Mr. Speaker, that while the collapse of the Berlin Wall symbolized the end of the Cold War, it surely did not symbolize our struggle against tyranny, and, as we applaud our victory and the victory

of our allies and the victory of the dissidents in the Soviet Empire over totalitarianism and tyranny, it is important for us to pay tribute to the judgment and determination of those who led the fight against the tyranny more recently in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo.

The struggling Kosovo is a direct continuation of the Cold War. The name of the dictator has changed from Stalin to Milosevic, but the underlying issues have remained the same, and those who feel that we have seen the end of history have a thing coming. History has not ended. The voices of tyranny, the attempt to suppress and persecute people because of their political beliefs, ethnic backgrounds, religious views continues. And while we are all rejoicing in the collapse of the Berlin Wall, we are all rejoicing in our victory in the Cold War over the Soviet Union, the struggle goes on.

As our distinguished Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, reminded us on a recent occasion, problems neglected abroad will eventually reach our shores. This should be a reminder to all the neo-isolationists that the collapse of the Berlin Wall is not the end of our effort, but just a significant milestone in our struggle against totalitarian tyranny.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H. Con. Res. 121 which commemorates victory in the Cold War and the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Most of us in the Congress today do not remember much of a time beyond what we refer to as the Cold War. Fortunately, for most of our children today, most of them will not remember a time which we refer to as the Cold War.

The Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was the defining international and military challenge which we faced for a half a century. It took many forms from an arms race, to a space race, from a debate about ideology to even a debate about the superiority of kitchens, but through it all, the U.S. remained firm and committed to winning the struggle against a totalitarian vision of government and society. This ominous vision is acknowledged by countries which suffered under totalitarian socialism to be bankrupt and without foundation.

The Cold War necessitated a world wide network of bases and the capacity to project American power overseas quickly and with effective force any where in the world. In the course of the Cold War, we had hot wars in Korea and Vietnam. My home island of Guam was instrumental in the prosecution of both wars and played an important part of the network of bases from which we could counteract the challenges presented by the Soviet Union and their allies. In fact, for many years, the people of Guam saw Soviet fishermen and their boats near the coast of Guam, fishing in decidedly unproductive grounds for fish, but productive for electronic eavesdropping and the monitoring of American military assets as they moved through Guam and the island's considerable military infrastructure. In order to

prosecute both World War II and the Cold War, the military on Guam took enormous amounts of property in the 1940s and inappropriately stored and buried large amounts of military hardware, chemicals and weaponry some of which has just been discovered late last week.

I continue to work with the local military commands, the Pentagon, the administration and where necessary, the Congress to expedite the return of the lands no longer needed by the military and to make sure that the lands are adequately cleaned for agricultural or residential pursuits.

There is an unsung story about how we won the Cold War and how we need to bring closure to an embarrassing chapter of our own history. At the height of the arms race with the Soviet Union, our government decided to conduct nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands. Over the course of several years, some 66 nuclear devices were detonated in these islands which have made prominent names such places as Bikini, Eniwetok, Rongelap and Utirik. As the U.S. became more powerful, the Marshallese became enfeebled by radiation and its consequences which are with us today. There have been many good faith efforts on our government's part to provide appropriate redress and medical treatment for these very innocent victims of the Cold War and the Arms Race. However, we must continue to monitor and update our efforts to make sure that the latest information and research is applied to the historical data and present day conditions of the Marshallese. This is a continuing obligation of the United States which we should not forget as we commemorate the winning of the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall in Europe.

The Cold War began in Europe and it is entirely appropriate that the fall of the Berlin Wall become the defining event which signaled its end. However, let us not forget that the Cold War was a world wide phenomenon and let us not forget the contributions of small Pacific islands to that struggle. Let us not forget that the Cold War had innocent victims. Let us not forget that the legacy of the Cold War is not just in the triumph of the ideals of democracy, but in the triumph of justice. The Cold War was a very just war, an effort that we all supported; but we must remember that not everything done in the pursuit of just aims can be entirely justified.

Congratulations to all of the men and women of our armed forces who served with distinction and a special sense of self-sacrifice, congratulations to all of our past Presidents who provided the leadership which ultimately resulted in the fall of the Berlin Wall and let us also remember all of the communities, both in the Pacific and in the North American continent which contributed their human and land resources for military facilities and nuclear testing.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my friend, Chairman BEN GILMAN, for marking up House Concurrent Resolution 121. This resolution states that it is the sense of Congress that Americans should celebrate our victory in the cold war in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which will be November 9th of this year.

As the 20th century slips away from us, November 9th, 1989 will always be one of its most historic and defining moments. On that night, the world watched as Berliners celebrated an end to the tyranny that had separated them from their friends and families. As the people took the Berlin Wall down brick-by-brick with their own bare hands, they were also bringing the future of communism to its knees. It was a turning-point in world civilization and a night to remember. Most importantly, it was a night we can't afford to let America forget.

Twenty-eight years before that night, the Soviets built a wall through a divided Germany, intent on keeping East Germans from fleeing to the West. Berliners awoke on the morning of August 13, 1961, to find their city divided. People began to risk their lives to flee from the tyranny. One of the saddest stories was that of eighteen-year-old Peter Fechter, a bricklayer apprentice in East Berlin. On August 17, 1962, he and a friend attempted to escape to the West over the wall near the infamous military post called "Checkpoint Charlie." Peter's friend made it over the wall, but Peter was shot and fell into 'no man's land' between barbed wire and concrete. He cried for help for 50 minutes before he bled to death. From the western side of the Wall, American soldiers could only throw first-aid kits at him. Over the twenty-eight years that the Wall stood, dozens of freedom-seeking East Germans would share Peter's fate. These people, who sacrificed their lives in an attempt to reach freedom, are proof that American dedication to fight the forces of communism was an important contribution to humanity.

The Berlin Wall was a tragic microcosm of the Cold War, and the Cold War was perhaps the most defining event in American history. America was willing and committed to fight for and protect individual human rights and democratic principles. The Cold War was an international struggle for the very principles our nation was founded on, the essence of our existence. America's Cold War victory wasn't just a victory for the U.S., it was a victory for mankind. It was a victory for Peter Fechter, who would never live to see it. Our cold war victory echoed through the microcosm of Berlin when the two East German border guards who shot Peter Fechter were convicted of manslaughter in March of 1997.

There are so many stories like those of Peter Fechter. Stories of people who died trying to flee, stories of people who successfully escaped, stories of soldiers fighting communist forces on the front lines, and stories of those who fought for freedom from behind the lines. These stories can be pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle to create a defining moment in history. The Cold War has consumed our history for the second half of the 20th Century. Who can forget the fear we felt during the Cuban Missile Crisis? The pride we felt when the American flag was planted on the moon during the space race? The anger we felt when the Soviets shot down Korean Air flight 007? America sent thousands and thousands of men to Korea and Vietnam, committed trillions of dollars in resources, and stood by its vow to fight the repression of communism.

I believe that it's important for our nation to celebrate our monumental achievement in win-

ning this war, and to recognize the 24 million servicemen who dedicated their lives to the cause. Because the Cold War did not involve an official surrender with the signing of a document on a single day, our nation has never had the immediate opportunity to give the Cold War its due recognition. This year, on the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it is time to commemorate our victory. I ask my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 121.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 121, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING PERU AND ECUADOR FOR ENDING BORDER DISPUTE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 25) congratulating the Government of Peru and the Government of Ecuador for signing a peace agreement ending a border dispute which has resulted in several military clashes over the past 50 years.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 25

Whereas the Governments of Peru and Ecuador have been engaged in a serious border dispute dating as far back as Spanish colonial times;

Whereas the Rio Protocol signed in 1942 between Peru and Ecuador, and guaranteed by 4 nations including the United States, failed to settle the dispute;

Whereas Peru and Ecuador have gone to war 3 times over the border areas with the most recent clashes taking place in 1995 resulting in dozens of deaths on both sides; and

Whereas the Governments of Peru and Ecuador recently completed long and difficult negotiations and reached a final settlement of the dispute on October 26, 1998: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Governments of Peru and Ecuador for ending the border dispute between their two countries which has been a source of armed conflict for over 50 years;

(2) commends the Presidents of both nations for personally becoming involved in the negotiations and for reaching this historic agreement;

(3) recognizes the commitment of the Presidents of the guarantor nations of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, along with the United States, in seeking a viable solution to the border dispute;

(4) urges both the Governments of Peru and Ecuador to honor the border settlement and to cooperate with each other in bringing peace, stability, and economic development to the troubled area; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to support both governments in the implementation of the border agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 25.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend our distinguished Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), and his ranking minority member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) for introducing this resolution. It is appropriate that the Congress should acknowledge and commend Peru and Ecuador for achieving a permanent settlement of the border dispute that has cost lives on both sides of the conflict for a number of decades, has lost too many people and has upset Andean regional harmony.

Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and Ecuadoran President Jamil Mahuad deserve credit for their personal leadership and courage in guiding their nations to establishing this peace agreement.

The negotiation of the peace accord was made possible by the concerted diplomatic efforts of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States acting as guarantors under the 1942 Rio Accord. The United States is very fortunate to have Ambassador Luigi Einaudi leading our efforts in support of this negotiation as our special envoy. His unparalleled skill and experience doubtlessly contributed mightily to this diplomatic success.

The permanent resolution of the conflict between the nations of Peru and Ecuador also established an important precedent for regional cooperation. In response to the 1995 hostilities, the guarantor countries fielded the military observer mission, Ecuador/Peru known as MOMEPE. The U.S. initially contributed helicopters and some 60 in personnel. In 1997, Brazil purchased four Blackhawk helicopters and took over MOMEPE's air support operations.

MOMEPE's mission ended on June 30. This is certainly an appropriate moment to extend our sincere thanks to